SPECULATIONS

The Common Cause
OF HUMANITY.

The Organ of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies.

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[The National Union does not hold itself responsible for opinions expressed in signed articles.]

Notes and News.

Changes in the Government.

As we go to Press the following changes in the Ministry are announced :—

Member of War Cabinet (without Portfolio) : Sir E. Carson, M.P.

Minister in Charge of Reconstruction (without Portfolio) : Dr. Addison, M.P.

Secretary of State for India : Mr. E. S. Montagu, M.P.

Minister of Munitions : Mr. Churchill, M.P.

First Lord of the Admiralty : Sir Eric Geddes.

National Union Societies and the Future.

National Union Societies and their members are now almost all thinking about the happy future when the vote is won. The Representation of the People Bill is not yet the law of the land, but we have reasonable hope that it will be so in the autumn, and we cannot help looking beyond.

Two questions are before us, first, what we will do ourselves with our own organisation; and second, what possibilities there are of combining with other women's organisations for parts of our future work. In different parts of the country National Union Societies and Federations are beginning to discuss these questions. Two important meetings will be held in the course of the next week. The Societies of the Manchester and District Federation have initiated a conference of women's organisations on July 21st. The main lines of discussion have been laid down as follows :—

1. Should women work together for such measures of social and economic reform as will leave freedom of development for women, and enable them to contribute freely to the life of the community.

2. If so, in what manner could women arrive at a working basis of agreement on questions of special importance to them, such as :—

(*a*) Problems arising as a result of the influence of present day conditions on the HOME, *e.g.*, HOUSING, PUBLIC HEALTH, EDUCATION, PENSIONS.

(*b*) Should equal pay be given for equal work? If so, is it reasonable to expect a man's wages to cover the upbringing of his children? And how does this affect women's position in the home?

(*c*) Questions such as :—Custody of Children, Divorce, Penal Reform, Criminal Law Amendment, &c.

On July 26th, the London Society is holding an informal Conference of its own members at Caxton Hall, to discuss the future. It also invites members of other National Union Societies who happen to be in London to come and to take part.

The Humanity of Women.

If any fresh proof were needed of the old contention of Suffragists that women are as diverse in their needs, and ideas, and opinions as men, it would be found in the numerous suggestions and discussions about what they will, shall, or ought to do with their votes when they get them. An observer recently remarked that these discussions are "a revelation of the humanity of women." They may be momentarily discouraging to those reformers who are quite sure themselves what reforms are most urgent, and in what direction they should go. It seems at times as if, when the vote were won, it would be difficult to get driving force for any fresh great reform, because women, even "progressive women," are so divided as to what they want next. But this diversity is a sign of life. It is probable that there is really a good deal of common ground among large numbers of women—and men, too—as to the abuses that ought to be removed; and when it comes to constructive work (which it very soon will), common ground will be discovered there too. Meanwhile, it would be a pity to forget the great mass of women who are not called, and who do not call themselves, "progressive," but without whose progress nothing real can be done. No single feminist reform can be much use (even if it can be carried) unless it brings with it, as the struggle for the Suffrage has done, a greater development and recognition of the humanity of women.

Army Nurses' Pensions.

The scale of pensions for Army nurses which existed at the outbreak of hostilities has during the war proved to be unsatisfactory, the qualifications being inapplicable to war conditions. Speaking in the House of Commons on March 22nd, Mr. Forster announced that the War Office had instituted a special scale of pensions for nurses "disabled either by diseases, accident, or anything of the kind wholly and directly due to service, or aggravated by service."

This week the Ministry of Pensions has issued the draft of a Royal Warrant again revising the scale of pensions for Army nurses. These in general correspond to provisions for officers, and are on a much more liberal scale than hitherto. A staff nurse totally disabled will now receive £100, as compared with £40 she at present receives, while a nurse disabled from unfitness, not due to military service, may receive a £200 gratuity, as compared with the present maximum gratuity of three months' pay.

A Woman Diplomatist.

One of the six British official representatives at the Anglo-German Conference at the Hague on prisoners of war was a woman, Mrs. Darley Livingstone, an American married to a British officer. Mrs. Livingstone has been a member and Hon. Secretary of the Government Committee on the Treatment by the Enemy of British Prisoners ever since it was formed two years ago. Until then she had never taken part in public work of any kind. To-day, there is probably no one in England who has a more extensive knowledge of the actual conditions in prisoners' camps in Germany and elsewhere.

Jane Austen and Modern Women.

In the midst of battle and murder and sudden death, it is a relief to turn to a writer whose books have perhaps less in common with these things and with the violent emotions they excite than those of any great writer in English literature. July 18th was the centenary of Jane Austen's death. It has not, of course, needed a centenary to remind those who love her of the comfort in her books. They have been reading and re-reading her in the last three years, and sighing when they found that they knew the precious six novels by heart, and could continue the conversations without looking at the printed page. The centenary is only of use to them as an opportunity for expressing gratitude or for comparing notes. To those who have wholly or partially neglected this source of consolation, however, it may give some inkling of what they have missed. Few intellectual gains which one could make at this time could be so valuable as an appreciation of Jane Austen's novels if one had not it before. The delight they give is the result, not only of their excellence, but of their remoteness from our present miseries and of their extreme reality. To begin to read them after reading the day's news is like waking from a nightmare into pleasant, everyday life. Few people who have read their respective utterances would deny that Mr. Woodhouse and Lady Bertram are far more natural than Bethmann-Hollweg.

One does not know whether it is a shock or an added comfort to be reminded that Jane herself and all her characters lived through the French Revolution, the Reign of Terror, and the Napoleonic Wars. It convinces one that those great acts of history, shattering as they were to the people principally concerned, did not affect the ordinary lives of ordinary men and women at all in the same way as the present Armageddon. There are very few references to war or politics or public characters in Miss Austen's correspondence (delightful letters about people and family plans, and clothes and shopping which every Austenite should read). In the novels war hardly appears except as a background to married life, and that only in a few scattered casual references, such as those in *Persuasion* and the end of *Pride and Prejudice*, where we are told that Wickham and Lydia's mode of life, "even when the restoration of peace dismissed them to a home, was unsettled in the extreme." We realise with a gasp that war had been going on all through the earlier events of the book.

But Jane Austen's books are aloof not only from war, but all violent emotions. She describes no death-beds and no catastrophes. Though Lydia Bennett and Marie Rushworth do elope, they do not do so under the influence of any very strong passion, and one is only expected to sympathise moderately with the families who had brought them up so badly, and not at all with them. The excitement and pain and horror which enter into most real life, and which are so near to us now, do not enter at all into these delightful books, and *yet* they are real. It is difficult to believe that Elizabeth Bennett belongs to the same human race as Tess Durbyfield, but one cannot doubt that she and Tess both belong to the same race as we do ourselves.

Some recent critics of Jane Austen have spoken of her as belonging to the eighteenth century. But though it is true that some of her qualities remind one of eighteenth-century masterpieces, one cannot help feeling that in many ways she is extraordinarily modern. Her delightful heroines are, after all, not at all unlike modern women. They are far nearer to most of us, not only than Scott's elegant young females, but than many heroines of a far later date. Different as their lives were from ours, it is really easier to imagine them doing the things we do, than it is to imagine the lady of fifty years later in like circumstances. Perhaps it is because the Victorian tradition had come in between. In spite of their circumscribed lives, Jane Austen's heroines were in some ways far freer than ordinary Victorian women. We see this not only in the fact that they went for long country walks by themselves, or with young men, and conversed with them quite freely, without any "maidenly" scruples. Miss Bingley did remark on Elizabeth Bennett's "almost wild appearance" when she had walked many miles across country at an early hour in the morning to see her sick sister. But this was only spite. There was no such serious objection as there always was when one of Charlotte Yonge's heroines wanted to make herself hot, muddy, or untidy for an equally good object. Elizabeth herself had no fears. She knew she was right, and was not influenced by the suggestion that things right in themselves might somehow be unwomanly, and therefore subtly wrong. Though they did not have much education (unless, like Anne Elliot, they got it themselves), Jane Austen's heroines had very independent minds. It is this which makes it so easy to sympathise with them. At the beginning of *Persuasion*, Anne Elliot had already reached the age at which women of her day began to be old maids; she had "lost her bloom"; she had every reason to suppose that the man she loved had long ceased to care for her: she was regarded as of no account by her family. Here is an instance of the way she was treated by her sisters:—

"Mary, often a little unwell, and always thinking a great deal of her own complaints, and always in the habit of claiming Anne when anything was the matter, was indisposed; and, foreseeing that she should not have a day's health all the autumn, entreated, or, rather, required her to come to Upper Cross Cottage, and bear her company as long as she should want her, instead of going to Bath. 'I cannot possibly do without Anne,' was Mary's reasoning; and Elizabeth's reply was, 'Then I am sure Anne had better stay for I am sure no one will want her at Bath.'"

All this is represented as causing Anne some sadness, but not as weakening her, or taking the colour out of her, or making her think life not worth living. Nobody had cared for her playing, but this did not make her give up music:—

"She knew that when she played she was giving pleasure only to herself; but this was no new sensation. Excepting one short period of her life, she had never, since the age of fourteen, never since the loss of her dear mother known the happiness of being listened to or encouraged by any just appreciation or real taste. In music, she had been always used to feel herself alone in the world."

The same was the case with regard to poetry, which Anne also loved. It did not make her give up music or literature. This independence of taste and judgment is characteristic of the heroines of all the novels, otherwise so different from each other. Elinor Dashwood, deserted by her lover (apparently because she had lost her fortune), misunderstood by the mother and sister she loved so dearly, placed throughout the whole course of *Sense and Sensibility* in the most uncomfortable positions, shows the kind of sense which can only be found in independent minds. Emma Woodhouse, the spoilt child, is not always sensible, but she is, if anything, too independent. Even Fanny Price, very young, gentle by nature, carefully taught from childhood that she is not of consequence, like her cousins, unconsciously suppressed by Sir Thomas, and deliberately oppressed by her Aunt Norris, is yet independent; independent, even, of the beloved Edmund. All Jane Austen's heroines can withstand the influence of suggestion.

Sense (which includes independence and a sweet reasonableness), self-control, and the dignity it gives, gentleness and a lively wit—these are the qualities that Jane Austen cares for. She has set forth their value in domestic life in a way that can never be equalled. She has a very high standard of family relations, and she makes her heroines live up to it. How charming they are as daughters and sisters. Emma Woodhouse, spoiled as she is, would do anything to save her father from a moment's distress (even to refusing to marry Mr. Knightley, if necessary!). Who has not admired her tactful ways with a person who, delightful as he is in a book, must sometimes have been a little tiresome in real life. Her tongue runs away with her with Miss Bates, but never with Mr. Woodhouse. How well Elizabeth Bennett and Anne Elliot behave to their families, so trying in different ways. What a delightful fraternal relation is described between Elinor and Marianne Dashwood, between Henry and Eleanor Tilney, and between Jane and Elizabeth Bennett. And how well both the lively Elizabeth and the gentle Jane come up to the scratch when the family is in trouble.

The difficulties, even the absurdities of family life, are never allowed as an excuse for behaving badly in it. Its pleasures and its pains are described with a truth which everyone must recognise. Perhaps the one side of it to which the modern woman will feel that Jane Austen hardly does justice, is the delightfulness of children. This is strange, because we see from her letters that she had a real understanding and appreciation of her nephews and nieces, and was the most adorable of aunts. In the novels she dwells chiefly on the tiresomeness of some grown-up people about children. Everybody will remember Isabella Knightley's fuss over her children, and the way in which Mary Musgrove and her "in-laws" each confided to Anne, how badly the others managed the little boys. But perhaps the most amusing passage about grown-up people's silliness with regard to children is in *Sense and Sensibility*.

"When the ladies withdrew to the drawing room after dinner, this poverty (of sense, elegance, spirits, and temper) was particularly evident, for the gentlemen had supplied the discourse with some variety—the variety of politics, enclosing land, and breaking horses—but then it was all over, and one subject only engaged the ladies till coffee came in, which was the comparative heights of Harry Dashwood and Lady Middleton's second son, William, who were nearly of the same age. Had both the children been there, the affair might have been determined too easily by measuring them at once; but as Harry only was present, it was all conjectural asseveration on both sides, and everybody had a right to be equally positive in their opinion, and to repeat it over and over again as often as they liked.

The parties stood thus :—

The two mothers, though each really convinced that her own son was the tallest, politely decided in favour of the other.

The two grandmothers, with not less partiality, but more sincerity, were equally earnest in support of their own descendant.

Lucy, who was hardly less anxious to please one parent than the other, thought the boys were both remarkably tall for their age, and could not conceive that there could be the smallest difference in the world between them; and Miss Steele, with yet greater address, gave it as fast as she could, in favour of each.

Elinor, having once declared her opinion on William's side, by which she offended Mrs. Ferrars, and Fanny still more, did not see the necessity of enforcing it by any further assertion; and Marianne, when called on for her's, offended them all by declaring that she had no opinion to give, as she had never thought about it."

Who does not recognise the truth of this scene?

All the life that she knew, Jane Austen has described not only with perfect sincerity and unsurpassable wit, but with intense enjoyment and a very high standard of conduct. We recognise it as a part of our life, and the part that is in some ways most refreshing just now. There are other parts which she would have described, had she known them, with equal enjoyment, and from an equally high moral standpoint. Who can doubt that she would have delighted in the exquisite absurdities of committees and conferences, as she delighted in the exquisite absurdities of family life. She would have been useful at them too. The same qualities that made Elizabeth, and Anne, and Elinor, and their creator herself so valuable to their families would have made them valuable on committees, or at councils, or in offices, or hospitals. We cannot doubt that these delightful women would have been Suffragists. The whole account of their lives is an illustration of how much there is to mend in the relations between men and women. The only time—or almost the only time—when Jane is betrayed into bitterness is when she comments on the foolishness that men expect from women. . . .

"I will only add (in justice to men) that though, to the larger and more trifling part of her sex, imbecility in females is a great enhancement of their personal charms, there is a portion of them too reasonable and too well-informed themselves, to desire anything more in a woman than ignorance."

Jane would have appreciated the progress of men, she would have enjoyed the new opportunities for women of displaying sense and sensibility, even perhaps the new opportunities for being ridiculous. She would certainly have fulfilled the duties of public life with as much reason and courage and faithfulness as she showed and expected in private life, and considering the particular qualities and restraints which she most prized, and the special characteristics of various organisations, I hope I shall not be accused of pride and prejudice if I say that I *think* she would have been a member of the N.U.W.S.S.

I. B. O'MALLEY.

Practical Farming for Women.

I have had several years' experience as a farmer, and when my bailiff enlisted in Kitchener's Army in 1914, it seemed to me obvious that I could best serve my country by taking his place and managing my farm entirely myself. I have had no cause to regret my decision; the work is most interesting, and I flatter myself the farm is as well, if not better, farmed than before. At the same time, I have found that acting as my own bailiff means much additional work. Instead of giving my orders to one man and leaving him to see them carried out, I have to go round to each man separately, to see that each one is in his place, and when one piece of work is finished that he knows what to do next without waste of time. I have to see that all implements are in order when wanted, that seeds and manures and feeding stuffs are ordered in good time, and at the lowest possible prices. That the stock are well cared for, and that work is going smoothly in all departments.

We are, of course, short-handed, like our neighbours, but I am fortunate in having a fair number of good men over military age, who have been with me for many years, and who have worked well and helped me in every possible way. I also employ a number of women. Two ladies, who have been specially trained, take the whole charge of my stock and dairy in place of a cowman and lad formerly employed; and a number of local women, chiefly wives and daughters of my own men, work when required at fruit-picking, hoeing, weeding, &c.

I farm about 350 acres, of which about 40 acres are devoted to fruit and vegetables, and about 60 are permanent pasture, the remainder being arable; a large portion of the latter is heavy land, suitable for wheat-growing, and I have endeavoured to produce the largest possible amount of wheat and other grain crops. Potatoes do not do particularly well in this district, but I grow some every year, as well as beans, peas, oats, barley, and clover. One of the chief secrets in successful farming is to look well ahead, to get the land ploughed up as soon as possible after harvest, and to get one's crops sown in good time. The weather, of course, has to be reckoned with, and often upsets the best-laid plans, but if one has everything in readiness to take the first suitable opportunity, the chances are in one's favour, for it is most difficult to make good if work once gets behindhand.

In this connection it is most important to make the best use of both man and horse-power; when so many jobs want doing at the same time, it is sometimes difficult to decide what must be done first; it is nearly always bad policy to change about and take men and horses off one job to do another. I have now two extra horses besides the four teams which I keep regularly at plough. These two odd horses have been used chiefly by ladies who have been working for me, some as pupils and some as paid hands.

This spring nearly the whole of the rolling and harrowing have been done in this way, besides carting straw, roots, and hay for cattle, fetching goods from the station, taking corn to the mill and stock to market, raking and shaking out the hay, carting-in chaff after threshing, horse-hoeing roots, and many other jobs.

A farmer's life is a busy one—out early to see that each man is in his place, and that work is being properly done. Then, after breakfast, letters to answer, and a number of miscellaneous persons to interview—a dealer comes to see if you have any pigs to sell, the carpenter wants you to look at some repairs he is working on, a neighbour sends up to borrow some implement, or to ask you to block a gap in a boundary fence, a traveller calls to try and sell you manure or feeding stuff. Then out into the fields again, perhaps the weather has changed, and work has to be altered accordingly, or the men will have finished work in one field, and want to know where to go next. At 10 o'clock the horsemen come home to bait, having been at work since six; they feed their horses and have a full hour for their own breakfast, starting out again about 11.30 and working till 3, when they feed again before going to their dinner, and come back again to groom their horses and bed them up for the night.

The day-men come to work at 6, and work till 5.30, having an hour off for breakfast at 8, and for dinner at 1 o'clock.

The same sort of rule applies to the men's work as to the work of domestic servants, and you could no more expect your horseman to do the day-men's work than you could ask your parlour-maid to cook. In dealing with the men in general, I have always found them obliging and helpful when treated with consideration, but just as some ladies are always in difficulties with their servants, so some farmers never seem able to keep men.

Besides the daily routine work on the farm, which often includes lending a hand one's self in busy times, there is the buying and selling of stock, attending markets and sales, and since the war, a good deal of public work has been asked of farmers in connection with the War Agricultural Committees which have been appointed in every county to consider all questions in connection with food production, labour, and other agricultural matters, and I have had my full share of this work.

K. M. COURTAULD.

CANTEEN WORK AT BAR-LE-DUC.

The following extract is from a letter to the Hon. Secretary of the Oxford Women Students' Society for Women's Suffrage, and sent by a worker whom that Society is maintaining at a Canteen for French soldiers at Bar-le-Duc :—

Perhaps you will care to hear a little about how things are going here.

"The work at the Foyer des Alliés is intensely interesting, and one realises more and more how absolutely essential it is, for the French seem to have nothing done for them in comparison with the English troops, who are so well off in the way of huts, &c. And what little *is* done for the French is done entirely for the men behind the lines, while those at the front are absolutely neglected. Trainloads of men who have been travelling for eighteen to twenty-four hours at a stretch are constantly coming in, and if it were not for the Foyer there would be no place where they could have food and a rest while waiting to be sent on. They all seem tired out, though their spirit is splendid. They are always cheerful and uncomplaining, and so grateful for anything done for them.

"We open at 6 o'clock, and do not close until 2 a.m., and there is a hope that later on we may be open all the twenty-four hours, as the trainloads come in at intervals during the night.

"There are seven workers just now, so we are not busy. The canteen is so well organised that the work seems very light. All the cooking is done by refugee women, and the men are able to have a good meal. Beef-steak, omelettes, ham and eggs, and salads are what they seem to like best. Cost prices are charged for everything, and the canteen just pays its way. There seems to be a tremendous need for these canteens right up behind the front lines. The men from Verdun especially often tell us that there is not a single place there where they can get anything to eat or drink, and they all say what a difference it would make to them to have somewhere to go.

"Yesterday a Frenchman, who is doing wonderful work behind the front line, came into the Foyer to ask for help. He has, single-handed, started a canteen right behind the line, and, using that as a base, has several dug-outs in the last line of trenches, where he goes twice a day to supply the men with hot drinks, &c., before they go out to fight. Finding the need for these places is so great, and that it is impossible for him to go on alone, he came into the Foyer to try and interest someone in his work. He told us that the French authorities are realising what a help these canteens are to the *morale* of the men.

"The cost of a canteen need not be considerable, as it could be worked under canvas (a couple of tents to compose a flying canteen to be moved where most needed). If cost prices are charged for everything sold, running expenses would be covered. The French Army provides certain rations.

"We have not been having so many visits from German aircraft lately; when I first came out they were coming over constantly, and did a good deal of damage."

Contributions are urgently needed both to carry on this work and to extend it, and should be paid into the O.W.S.S.W.S. Canteen Fund (registered under the War Charities Act) by Miss Sarson, Grosvenor Road, West Wickham, Kent.

The found has been used to maintain well qualified workers who would have been unable to pay their expenses. Members of the N.U. are invited to assist. Further information from Miss Deneke, Lady Margaret Hall, Oxford.

New Zealand Clothing.

Gifts for Distribution by the N.U.W.S.S.

The cases of beautifully made woollen garments continue to come in. During this year we have received no less than thirty-two cases and parcels. Nineteen of these have come from Napier, where are two Women's Societies, one of which has a strenuous name to live up to, and succeeds in doing it: the "Keep-On League."

The Nelson Society sent a donation of £30 to be forwarded to the Soldiers' and Sailors' Families Association, together with a large case of clothing, all of which—the proceeds of a school *fête*—were a special offering from the children of the town. One of the pleasing features of these gifts is the frequency with which the children participate in sending them. It is, indeed, a generality to find bundles of clothing in the large cases marked: "Made by the children of —— school." Often a pretty letter "To the little girl who gets this" is attached to some dainty garment from a small friend over the water. One case from Christchurch contained exquisitely-made baby garments and fluffy woollen balls, all the work of the children, and another from the same town brought garments the girls had made from material provided by the boys.

That these garments are well and comfortably made is proved by the fact that the baby who received first prize at the Reading Baby Show for the "best-dressed baby" was clothed entirely in the gifts received from New Zealand.

This week the Motueka Society has sent a donation of £10 "for milk and weeks in the country for delicate children of soldiers and sailors." Five pounds of this have been sent to the Children's Aid Committee, which exists to provide country holidays for delicate children of soldiers and sailors, and £5 has been shared equally among five London Maternity Centres to provide milk for babies.

The following is a list of institutions to which clothing has been sent:—Anerley Soldiers' and Sailors' Families Association; Argyle Square Mothers' Welcome, Arisaig (Inverness), to help in the formation of a Maternity Centre there; Banner Street Mission, Barnes Maternity Centre, Batley Maternity Centre, Beckenham and Penge branch of the Rochester Diocesan Association for Befriending Women and Girls, Beddington and Wallington Special Sub-Committee, Bedminster Maternity Centre, Birmingham Infant Welfare Centre, Bramley Road School for Mothers, Brentford Maternity Centre, Brixton Nursing Association, Chelsea Soldiers' and Sailors' Families Association, Children's Aid Committee, Chiswick Mission House, Claremont Mission, Crossways Mission, Dockhead Maternity Centre, Douglas Day Nursery, Hoxton, Finsbury Maternity and Child Welfare Centre, Finsbury War Pensions Committee, Fareham Soldiers' and Sailors' Families Association, Fulham Depôt, Golborne Ward School for Mothers and Day Nursery, Hammersmith School for Mothers, Hanley Infants' Welfare Centre, Harley Street Mission, Bow, Kentish Town Day Nursery, Kingston and Surbiton Mothers' and Babies' Welfare Society, Ladies' Association (3rd City of London Battn. Royal Fusiliers), Liverpool Central School for Mothers, Manchester Relief Fund, Medical Mission of the Good Shepherd, Mothers' Arms, Bow, North Kensington Mothers' Welcome, Notting Hill Day Nursery, Pangbourne W.S.S., Penge Mothers' Welcome, Portsmouth Maternity and Child Welfare Centre, Portsmouth (St. Andrew's Home), Reading W.S.S. Day Nursery, Reigate Borough Maternity Centre, St. Marylebone Health Society, St. Pancras War Pensions Committee, Sick Room Helps Society, St. Pancras Day Nursery, Soldiers' and Sailors' Families' Association (Central Organisation), South Islington Maternity Centre, Southwark Day and Night Nursery, Stoke-on-Trent Mothers' and Babies' Welcome, Stratford Day and Night Nursery, Stoke-on-Trent Infant Welfare Centre, Tottenham Infant Welfare Centre, Truro W.S.S. Maternity Centre, Wandsworth Mothers' Welcome, West Bromwich Infant Welfare Centre, Women's Hospital for Children, Women's League of Service, Worthing Care Committee and Day Nursery, Workers' Suffrage Federation.

Correspondence.

SUFFRAGE POSITION IN IRELAND.

Madam,—May I call the attention of British suffragists to the very serious danger threatening Irishwomen? *The Daily Telegraph* of July 11th states that "The Government may agree to leave Ireland altogether out of the Representation of the People Bill . . . as the Unionists complain that the exclusion of the country from the redistribution proposals is a grave injustice to them, since it perpetuates their serious under-representation. . . . Ministers have not come to a final decision on the subject."

Now, as the Bill stands at present, Irishwomen will have the Parliamentary vote on the same basis—except for the age limit—as the men. Thus, married women over thirty will have the Parliamentary vote in this country, while in England, under the last section of Clause 4; husband and wife cannot both be qualified in respect of the same property. The Bill, therefore, gives a wider measure of enfranchisement in Ireland than in England. But the danger is real and serious. The Unionists are not actuated by any anti-suffrage feeling: they have always contended that any enlargement of the franchise in Ireland should be accompanied by redistribution, for perfectly obvious reasons, and which have nothing to do with suffrage

Meanwhile, the General Council of County Councils in Ireland, on June 17th, passed a resolution that the question of votes for women should be left to an Irish Parliament to settle for itself. Thus, Irishwomen would be left without that voice in the settlement of the government of their own country, possessed by the enfranchised women of the Dominions and Great Britain. The result is that grave danger to which I have already referred. Ireland may be left out of the Bill, and the enfranchisement of Irishwomen deferred indefinitely. We appeal to Unionists and Nationalists alike to forget party considerations and think only of Ireland, a country which needs the best services of all her people, men and women alike. The reports of Baby Week celebrations in Dublin and elsewhere would, indeed, read oddly if followed by a refusal to allow Irishwomen any effective share in safeguarding the children. All the questions pressing for solution in this country are women's questions—Education, Housing, Poor Law Reform.

Last of all, when the Convention meets next week for the adjustment of differences and the healing of dissensions, it should surely be with the knowledge that whatever action be taken affecting the government of the country, the women of the country must possess assured rights of citizenship.

Dora Mellone, Hon. Press Sec., Belfast Suffrage Society.

THE CANTEEN AT SOISSONS—AN EXPLANATION.

Madam,—In your issue of July 13th, you publish over my initials a description of the starting of the Scottish Women's Emergency Canteen at Soissons which is, in effect, an appeal to carry on an urgent piece of work, but you omit the date, which I placed at the head of my letter, namely, Monday, June 11th. In view of the fact that it reads as my report and my appeal on July 13th, I feel that it is only fair to the French to say that circumstances are now entirely different, and that the "emergency" which existed in the first week of June no longer exists in July. Whether, at a later stage in the campaign, a useful work may be done in carrying on a Canteen in the town, I am not in a position to judge, but the particular circumstances in which help was called for in early June, and with reference to which I made my appeal, dated June 11th, have entirely changed, and my concluding paragraphs, appearing on July 13th, thus giving what our Allies might regard as a deliberately false impression.

V. C. C. Collum.

MOTHERS' PENSIONS.

MADAM,—The tone of Miss Royden's letter shows the spirit I complain of. Why is it "an insult" to pay Mothers' Pensions through the Poor Law? That is the wrong way to look at the Poor Law.

It seems to me that there is nothing to be ashamed of in being helped if one really needs it. What is discreditable is to get assistance from the rates, when one could support oneself.

But the great majority of the people who are now helped by the Poor Law are in the first category, not the second. The infirm, the sick, the feeble-minded, the widows and orphans who are now assisted by the Poor Law, ought to feel no shame. But when good women like Miss Royden say it is an insult, it makes them think that they are really shamed by accepting what the law offers them. Surely it is one of the most absurd inconsistencies the English people have ever been guilty of—on the one hand to offer provision and maintenance to all the poor and helpless, and, on the other, to couple the gift with such wounding reproach that self-respecting people feel bitter at accepting it.

Now I think we should reform this. We should use the machinery of the Poor Law, which covers the whole country, and is quite well designed, for all help given by public authority to those who need it, and we should divide the scamps who try and take advantage of the national care, from the honest people who, for one reason or another, merit the help of the public.

And this reform has not got to be begun; it is already working. Already the Poor Law Infirmary has attained a position in the public estimation only second to that of the hospitals. Already a Poor Law orphan gets well cared for, well taught, and well clothed, and is able, on leaving school, to get as good a place as any other boy or girl. Outdoor relief, when it is given on good grounds, should not carry greater reproach than medical relief, and by giving the distribution of Mothers' Pensions to the Poor Law, you will be taking a big step towards rehabilitating the Poor Law in the opinion of the poor.

The way to reduce paupers is to attack the causes of pauperism at the root, not to hunt the unlucky victims of evil social conditions with this doctrine that they are shamed by taking the help that is indispensable to them.

I would be as severe as you like to the people Queen Elizabeth described as "valiant beggars," but I would like the great sums of money which this nation spends in relieving the miserable, to be given and received without bitter words, engendering still more bitter feelings.

MAUD SELBORNE.

Reviews.

EDUCATION AFTER THE WAR. By J. H. Badley (B. H. Blackwell, Oxford, 1917) is an unpretending little book, with something to say, something more than appears at first sight. It should serve as a useful handbook to Suffragists and others who want to clear up their ideas of the nation's educational needs. Its practical proposals are virtually the same as those made by the Workers' Educational Association, and, if it is a bold thing as yet to say that their main principles are hardly controversial, it is true that they would meet with few opponents among those who have national education at heart, and that the chief obstacle to their realisation is probably money. The "old idea of a narrow educational ladder is to give way to the new conception of a broad highway." We want more education and we want a better, and it is on the better that Mr. Badley puts his emphasis. An enthusiast for education in general, and for modern education in particular, for the teaching of science and of modern languages, Mr. Badley militates against the great beast of utilitarianism, but he militates non-sentimentally, within compact paragraphs, in handbook form, and comes to the conclusion that it does not so much matter *what* things are taught as *how* they are taught; for education is an "active, not a passive" thing, and if it means anything, it gives "a greater mastery over means of life," and also calls forth a "deeper understanding of the human values that give life its real worth." In other words, personality is the one thing that matters, and to personality, as well as to other things of the spirit, one cannot say be here, be there; mere controversy is the result. Mr. Badley avoids this pitfall of controversy, and looks to what is positive; religion should have "the largest place of all," but should not be taught in school in an expert way; education should not only be a means of turning out "competent workmen, men of business, soldiers, or scholars," nor should it aim at "wealth, power, or efficiency in this direction or that"—as these are only at best a means to an end—a life for all, healthy, vigorous, useful, rich in feeling, full of interests and satisfactions, and therefore full of happiness. These things are easier said than done, but one would welcome Mr. Badley's suggestions on the training in citizenship expounded at greater length and in more detail than the size of this little book allows. He grinds no axe for co-education, though he believes in it heart and soul, and considers the principle of equality of sexes upon which it is based as vital; "self-control" by "discipline, and by as much self-government as possible," is of supreme importance, and with it the "outlook on life" and the "habitual attitude towards things of the mind and the spirit." The immediate first steps towards a better education in our elementary schools are smaller classes and a better status for the teacher. Both are essential if personality is to be allowed to express itself as it must in a true education.

THE HOPE FOR SOCIETY: ESSAYS ON SOCIAL RECONSTRUCTION AFTER THE WAR. (G. Bell & Sons Ltd. 3s. net.)

This collection of essays, originally delivered as lectures at the Interdenominational Summer School held at Swanwick in 1916, covers to a great extent the same ground as the volume on "After-War Problems," to which reference was made in an article in our last issue. Each chapter has been contributed by a different author, and deals with one definite aspect of the conditions social, economic, and political, with which we shall be faced at the end of the war.

"The Hope for Society," as its title suggests, is a book for those who look for the outcome of some good from the evil days through which we are passing. It is not likely to find favour with the pessimists, or with those who expect nothing from the coming of peace but a return, so far as our losses in men and cash will let us, to the old ways of July, 1914. The contributors bring enthusiasm to the discussion of their respective subjects, and though one may be inclined now and then to question a conclusion or an inference, the idealism and high moral level of the book are invigorating. Those of us, for example, who can recall the stunning bewilderment—the sense of an awful nightmare from which we half hoped to wake—which oppressed us during the first weeks of the war, may question Mr. Clutton-Brock's assertion that "It was the incredible boredom of our peace which made the peoples hail a war with delight" but few will dispute his condemnation of the futility and vulgarity of many of our former "luxuries," or the need for a simpler, austerer standard in living and in art.

A thoughtful chapter on "Social Relations of Men After the War" is contributed by Mr. Ernest Barker, in which, starting from the premise that "The war will bring us a peace of which the nature and character will be conditioned, and in large measure determined, by the forces, material and spiritual, evoked in the course of the struggle," he analyses these forces as they appear to him to be evolving in the stress of war. In the sphere of international relationships he foresees that an "interruption, or at any rate, a hardening, of social relations and connections with the German States" may lead to a demand for a "complete and rounded economy of our own, which shall produce all our own national requirements," but that in its turn may be modified by the impulse to join hands with France in the West and Russia in the East, whereby we may recapture something of our old heritage of intellectual kinship with the Romance peoples, at the same time drawing fresh inspiration from the religious life of Russia, and its art and literature.

The question of the relations of capital and labour in the matter of Trades Union regulations is dealt with by Sir Hugh Bell from the point of view of an employer friendly in the main to Trades Unionism, though critical of its tendency to restrict output. The Rev. Dr. A. J. Carlisle, on the other hand, writing of the same question from the point of view of labour, maintains that limitation of output is a necessity for labour, owing, among other causes, to the tendency of the workman, if left to himself, to overwork.

"The Position of Women in Industry" is the subject of a chapter by Miss M. Bondfield, which contains interesting statistics as to the increase in the number of women in industrial employment and the way in which the proportion so engaged varies at different ages, with the reasons for its so doing. In summing up the programme of reforms which she considers essential after the war, she urges, in addition to the eight hours' day and the minimum wage, the need to "reconstruct our social life with regard to the care of motherhood and childhood," and the establishment of a Ministry of Health, which shall "try to preserve health, and not merely mend up broken-down people, and which shall reach from the pre-natal period to old age."

Other chapters are devoted to "The Future of the Women's Movement," to agriculture, the land question, the Future of the British Commonwealth, and other aspects of our great problem of reconstruction.

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Speculations.

In the language to which we have grown accustomed, it may be said that the Women's Suffrage movement stands between an important strategic victory and the final "break through." And in spite of a superstitious warning conscience which mutters platitudes concerning unhatched chickens, for the majority of fighters the organisation of the great attack is enlivened by very practical speculations as to the possibilities of the promised land which lies beyond the enemy's third line.

On two points at least there seems to be a fair measure of agreement among suffrage speculators concerning the utilisation of those possibilities; one is positive, the other negative. On the positive side it is agreed that henceforth those matters which profoundly and predominantly affect women, shall take their place among the vital considerations of government; that henceforth the interests of the child-bearing half of the community shall receive as much public consideration as those of the producing half. On the negative side, too, it is generally agreed that the accomplishment of this aim must not involve a separation of the body politic into two hostile camps by the growth of a new feminist party with its own independent Parliamentary group. We have seen during the nineteenth century the emergence of such a fundamental cleavage of interest in another sphere of human effort, but the thought of a cleavage between men and women cross-cutting the cleavage between capital and labour, is one that the most contentious of Suffragists would hardly contemplate with a light heart. Nevertheless, among the problems which future women voters will have to face lies the germ of just such a conflict; for does not the dependence of the child-bearer upon the wage-earner involve as profound a conflict of interest as the dependence of the wage-earner upon the capitalist? And if there are many persons who believe that both are necessary for the continuance of child-bearing and production respectively, are there not many more who believe that both are oppressive and inexpedient? Safety, however, lies in the fact that the hideous results of such a conflict render its occurrence impossible; after all, capitalists and labourers, Englishmen and Germans, can continue over a long period to hate one another and avoid personal contact in the day-to-day affairs of life. Men and women can do neither. The interests which bind them together are in actual fact more powerful than those which divide them. But even if the thing could happen, Suffragists are resolved that it shall not. It is possible, of course, that this second assumption is a somewhat sweeping one. In the old days of militant activity it was generally asserted that the ultimate aim of the W.S.P.U. was to serve as the nucleus of an independent feminist party. It may be that this ideal is still cherished by one or more of the independent fragments of that body which survive.

Having however, assumed two points of general agreement—namely, the necessity of creating a new set of political values, and of avoiding an independent feminist party, we come to the parting of the ways. We find ourselves asking, is it advisable, is it even possible, to arrive at some sort of central organisation for the co-ordination of women's interests, and for the advocacy of those interests before the general public and the political parties? Here we find considerable food for disagreement among Suffragists. In favour of such a scheme it may be said that a body speaking in the name of the greater number of the large women's societies, where those societies can be made to agree upon any definite matter, would carry infinitely more weight than any of the societies acting alone; indeed, many such questions of possible agreement leap to mind—for example, the better provision for maternity, the legal recognition of an equal moral standard, the

extension of the local government franchise, questions such as those upon which the National Union of Women Workers expresses opinions year after year. On the other hand, it must be owned that large numbers of women, and of exceedingly influential women, would probably refuse, for the next few years at least, to sit round the same green table, and work through the same political machinery as the cautious middle-class women workers who would be found in many of the societies which might make up the central organisation. Here is a matter for much speculation.

And this brings us to a second problem: given the possibility of such co-ordination of women's interests, is there in existence now any piece of efficient organisation capable of being adapted to the purpose? In answering such a question two names involuntarily creep into one's mind—the N.U.W.S.S., with its widespread active membership, and its incomparable political machinery, and the National Union of Women Workers, with its unrivalled command over the services of expert women in all branches of social and political activities. But the N.U.W.S.S. was born into the world with a special function, the removal of certain sex disabilities; and the successful passage of the present Reform Bill will leave that function still unfulfilled. If it be ruled out, that leaves the N.U.W.W. in the field; and in some ways it is the most obvious recipient for such an inheritance of responsibility, with a name which most people know, and leaders whom most people revere. But it is a middle-class organisation, and the majority of the new voters will not be middle-class women. And it has a constitution which, at the first glance at least, appears peculiarly ill-adapted for prompt action and the reflection of opinion in affiliated societies. What use can be made of it in the new order of things? Here is a second matter for much speculation.

Meanwhile, there is the third line to be forced.

MARY STOCKS.

Women's National Service.

WOMEN CLERKS IN FRANCE.

City clerks were amongst the first to enlist on the outbreak of war in the service of their country, and to-day the same patriotic spirit is expected of the City *girl* clerk.

The pay offered to ordinary clerical workers, for which there is an especial demand just now, is from 23s. to 27s. per week, according to efficiency. This is for forty-two working hours a week, and after this there is overtime at 7d. an hour. In addition, there is a bonus of £5 at the end of each year. These rates also apply to typists. Shorthand-typists and clerks employed on higher and supervisory duties receive from 28s. to 32s. per week, with 9d. an hour overtime, and the same war bonus as ordinary clerks at the end of a year's service. From these amounts a deduction not exceeding 14s. per week is made to cover the cost of board and lodging.

These, then, are the terms that the would-be woman recruit must be prepared to accept.

With regard to qualifications, candidates are expected either to have had actual office experience, or to be able to produce evidence of having received sufficient education to enable them to undertake simple clerical work.

Candidates (who, by the way, must be of British nationality) are required to fill in an enrolment form, which must then be returned to the Director-General of National Service. This form will then be carefully examined at the Headquarters of the National Service Department in order to ascertain if the candidate's offer of service is in order.

The chief grounds upon which a candidate's application are usually rejected come within the three following heads:—

(*a*) Failure to come within the age limits (twenty to forty).

(*b*) Candidate who is already employed on work of national importance, and has failed to obtain the written consent of present employer to offer for National Service.

(*c*) Candidate's husband is serving with the Forces abroad, and this renders candidate ineligible for foreign service.

Provided the candidate's application appears to be satisfactory, she will receive a notice paper calling her to appear before a Selection Board.

These Selection Boards are held periodically in various parts of the country, the Central Board sitting permanently in London, and the other Boards visiting different centres in town. In addition to appearing before the Selection Board, the candidate will be required to undergo a strict medical examination.

Supposing the candidate to be duly passed by these Boards, she will, within quite a short time, receive a railway warrant to proceed to the training centre in London. Here she will undergo training in military drill, and will attend lectures on hygiene and discipline. She will also have to be inoculated twice and vaccinated once.

During their three weeks' stay at the Hostel everything is done to make the girls happy and comfortable. A library of nearly a thousand volumes has been provided for them, and the Y.W.C.A. have undertaken to provide entertainment for the girls and to look after their welfare generally. At the end of the three weeks the girls are immediately sent out to France, where they are drafted to the various military bases. The charming surroundings and happy conditions under which these girls work afford a pleasing contrast to all the manifold horrors and discomforts of the trenches so uncomplainingly faced by our men.

The "Tommies" and N.C.O.s have given their "Sisters-in-arms" a right royal welcome. One of the girls gives a quite delightful picture of a Garden Party given by the Sergeants' Mess, to which the W.A.A.C. girls were invited.

"Although the weather chose just the moment of starting to break into a thunderstorm of great violence," she writes, "we managed to have a truly delightful time. Soldiers, when they give entertainments, do things very thoroughly, and no one would have guessed there was a war on if our hosts had not been in Service khaki. There were most beautiful flowers arranged all about the garden besides those which grew on the trees all around, a really picked orchestra, and dainty food in abundance."

Some of the girls are housed in Huts, and others in Hostels. The "Hostel" girls and the "Hut" girls seem to vie with each other in their praise of the accommodation provided for them. One girl writes of the Huts:—"One letter has been sent to you describing our luxurious huts, but it is impossible to describe how ripping they are: one has to come and see them to realise their truly 'homelike appearance.'"

The praise of the Hostels is thus sung by one of the inmates:—"My room-mate and I have a nice big bedroom, with French windows opening out French fashion on to a little balcony. We have this wide open all night, and it is almost as good as sleeping in the open air."

Surely there should be no lack of volunteers when such inducements as these are offered.

[The above article has kindly been sent to us by the Women's Department of National Service.]

LONDON SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE

AN INFORMAL CONFERENCE

TO DISCUSS FUTURE PLANS

will be held at Caxton Hall on Thursday, July 26th, at 6 p.m.

Members of the London Society for Women's Suffrage and members of other Societies of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies are invited to attend and take part in the discussion. No resolutions will be voted on.

P. STRACHEY *(Secretary).*

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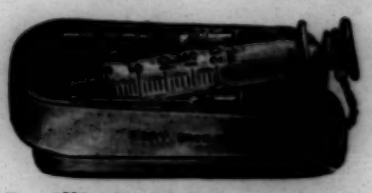

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Notes from Headquarters.

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To those who remember Mrs. Harley's many activities and the almost boundless energy and enthusiasm by which she created ties for herself in many places and among many different sets of people, it will not be a surprise that after her gallant death Suffragists should emulate each other in doing her honour.

In the early spring of this year the Shrewsbury Society of the N.U.W.S.S., to which she belonged, and of which she had been "for the last ten years of her life the honoured President," decided to commemorate her by raising funds for a special ward or beds in the Royal Salop Infirmary. Her friends felt that this would be the kind of scheme which would have pleased her, especially as she took a keen interest in the Infirmary, and her whole life was spent in the relief of suffering.

The Shrewsbury Society therefore sent out the following brief account of Mrs. Harley's death, and appealed for help.

"It will be remembered that shortly after the outbreak of war, Mrs. Harley nobly offered her services to the Committee of the Scottish Women's Hospitals, under whose auspices she took out a Unit to France, in January, 1915. There, in the course of a few months, she was successful in establishing two Hospitals for French soldiers, and by her resourcefulness and undaunted enthusiasm in face of many difficulties, won the confidence of the Military Authorities as well as of the grateful "Poilus." Before she left France her services were especially recognised by the French Army in the public presentation of the Croix de Guerre, conferred on her by General Sarrail. In October, 1916, she was further honoured by being requested to accompany the French Expeditionary Force to Salonika, where she did most useful work in caring for the wounded. After a brief stay in England for the purpose of collecting funds, she returned to Greece with a Flying Column of Motor Ambulances, and was sent in February, 1917, to relieve the distressed Serbian population at Monastir. Whilst tending these Serbians, she was killed by an enemy shell on March 7th, 1917."

A warm response to the Society's appeal was promptly received from Lord French (Mrs. Harley's brother), who wrote:—"*I cannot well express to you the intense pleasure it is to me to know that her efforts are appreciated.*" And also from:—

The Prime Minister.
The Bishop of London.
The Bishop of Lichfield and Mrs. Kempthorne.
The Serbian Minister.
A. Bonar Law, Esq.
The Countess Cowdray.
Lord and Lady Harlech.
Lord Barnard.
Lady Frances Balfour.
Lord and Lady Willoughby de Broke.
Sir Beville Stanier, M.P., and Lady Stanier.
Mr. G. Butler Lloyd, M.P.
Mrs. Henry Fawcett, LL.D.
Mr. and Mrs. P. D. Harley (Condover Grange).
The Misses Teresa and Frances Harley.
The Headmaster of Eton and The Hon. Mrs. Alington.
The Headmaster of Shrewsbury School.
The Very Rev. Canon Moriarty, D.D.
Miss Gale (Headmistress of Shrewsbury High School).
Miss MacLeod (Principal of Shropshire Technical School).
The Mayor and Mayoress of Shrewsbury.
W. Adams, Esq. (Chairman of Atcham Board of Guardians).
Dr. and Mrs. Burd.
Rev. P. Emson, R.D., and Mrs. Emson.
H. F. Harries, Esq. (Honorary Chief Constable of Shrewsbury) and Mrs. Harries.
Mr. and Mrs. Corbett (Longnor).
Mr. and Mrs. Fielden (Condover Hall).
Mrs. Spencer Phillips.
Miss Neilson.
Mrs. Hulton-Harrop.
J. B. Lloyd, Esq. (Dorrington).
Mr. and Mrs. Burton (Longner).
Mrs. Cecil Sparrow.
Dr. and Mrs. G. Whitwell.
Mr. and Mrs. B. Blower.
Mr. and Mrs. Grocott.
Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Oswell.
Miss Garside (Matron of the Infirmary)
Rev. W. J. and Mrs. Farrow.
The Shrewsbury Trades and Labour Council.

The Shrewsbury Society also wrote to the Executive Committee of the N.U.W.S.S., which gladly promised to help in making the matter known.

The cost of endowing each bed at the Royal Salop Infirmary is £1,000.

Subscriptions should be sent to the Hon. Treasurer, A. Pullin, Esq., Manager of Lloyd's Bank, Shrewsbury, or either of the Joint Hon. Secretaries, Mrs. George Whitwell, Castle Street, Shrewsbury, A. E. Lloyd Oswell, Esq., Dove Chambers, Shrewsbury, or to Lloyd's Bank, 16, St. James's Street, London, W.

Somewhat later in the year the West Midland Federation of the N.U.W.S.S. also desired to show their appreciation of Mrs. Harley's devotion to the cause of Women's Suffrage, and the splendid heroism of her work in Serbia.

They decided to propose as a memorial the creation of a Loan Fund in connection with the London School of Medicine for Women, to be known as "The Harley Memorial Loan Fund." The purpose of such a Fund would be the granting of loans to suitable women, who would otherwise be prevented by lack of means from entering on a medical career, the loans to be repaid as may be arranged after qualifying.

It is proposed that the Fund should be open to all women, but that the preference should be given to a candidate residing in the area of the West Midland Federation, always providing she is considered a suitable candidate.

£500 is required for this purpose.

Donations should be sent to the Hon. Treasurer, Mrs. Dymond, Hampton Grange, Hereford.

The Executive Committee is much interested in both these schemes, and hopes that any Societies of the N.U. or any individual members who can, will contribute to whichever object appeals to them most, or, if possible, to both, remembering, however, that they are separate schemes, that subscriptions must be sent to different places, and that in honour of Mrs. Harley's memory it is important that both should receive adequate support.

1917 Franchise Fund.

Early in February, before the recommendations of the Speaker's Conference had been accepted by the House of Commons, this fund was named in the true spirit of prophecy. The prophecy will not be actually fulfilled until the Representation of the People Bill is on the Statute Book, and until then the fund, with its prophetic name, will need all the support that Suffragists can give. The amount received up to date is £1,747 6s. 10d., a splendid response, for which we are deeply grateful. The amount in hand is, however, an entirely different matter, for the strenuous weeks of May and June, with deputations, memorials, meetings, circulars, entailing additional staff because the regular staff could not cope with the work, have made a large hole in our store.

We therefore ask for further contributions to the 1917 Franchise Fund, to help us to carry on until the Bill is passed, and then to carry out whatever programme may be decided by the Council.

	£	s.	d.
Already acknowledged ...	1,740	16	10
Dr. M. E. Franklin	1	1	0
Miss Ethel Dickinson, Durban		5	0
Mrs. F. E. Ashwell Cooke ...	1	1	0
Richmond W.S.S.		3	3	0
Em. E. M.		1	0	0
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Contributions to the General Fund.

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Already acknowledged since November 1st, 1916 ...	1,311	13	11
Received from July 9th to 14th, 1917:—			
Subscriptions.			
Mrs. Arthur Gibson	2	2	0
Miss B. A. Clough	25	0	0
Mrs. G. H. Lomas		1	0
Miss Helena Frank		5	0
Mrs. Morse		5	0
Mrs. G. Stuart Robinson ...	1	1	0
Dr. Alice Sanderson		5	0
Miss Mary E. Sanderson ...		5	0
Miss Emily A. Clayden		1	0
Mrs. Mary B. Samson		2	6
Mrs. A. G. Dryhurst	2	2	0
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Donations.			
Royal New Zealand Society for the Health of Women and Children, Motueka: Milk and Country Holidays for Soldiers' and Sailors' Children...	10	0	0
Mrs. Mary B. Samson (War Work)	1	0	0
	£1,358	14	8

IMPORTANT.

Postal Orders should be crossed, and filled in N.U.W.S.S.

Treasury notes should be treated like coins, and always registered. If any contributions remain more than two days unacknowledged, please write at once to the Secretary, N.U.W.S.S., 14, Great Smith Street, Westminster, S.W. 1.

Please address letters containing money either to the Secretary or to Mrs. Auerbach, or Miss Sterling by name, *not* to the Treasurer.

The Millicent Fawcett Hospital Units.

	£	s.	d.
Already acknowledged ...	12,038	14	3
Sevenoaks W.S.S., collection at annual meeting, addressed by Miss Moberly	2	11	9
Leicester W.S.S., collection at Miss Moberly's meeting, June 28th	15	0	0
Miss Ethel Dickinson, Durban		5	0
Miss M. E. Lowndes, Greenwich, Conn.	2	0	0
Mr. Charles Mellor		10	0
	£12,059	1	0

Further donations should be sent to the Countess of Selborne, or to Miss Sterling, N.U.W.S.S., 14, Great Smith Street, London, S.W. 1. Cheques and Postal Orders to be crossed "London County & Westminster Bank, Victoria Branch."

N.U.W.S.S. Scottish Women's Hospital for Home and Foreign Service.

Further subscriptions are still urgently needed, and should be sent to Mrs. Laurie, Hon. Treasurer, Red House, Greenock. Cheques to be crossed "Royal Bank of Scotland." Subscriptions for the London Units to be sent to the Right Hon. Viscountess Cowdray or the Hon. Mrs. B. M. Graves, Hon. Treasurer, 66, Victoria Street, Westminster, London, S.W. 1.

	£	s.	d.
Forward as per list to July 2nd, 1917	224,236	4	8
Further donations received to July 12th, 1917 :—			
*Dock Office Staff, Leith, Hull, and Hamburg Steam Packet Co., Ltd., per Donald McDonald, Esq.	2	10	0
*Per Miss Curwen, Organiser, S.W.H., Liverpool, per Sale of Appeals		12	6
*Per Miss Etta Shankland, for upkeep of beds: Higher Grade School, Greenock, per James Beattie, Esq., Headmaster (£3 4s.), Ladyburn School, Greenock, per John Ireland, Esq., Headmaster (£3), Pupils, Ardgowan School, Greenock, per James Hutchison, Esq., Headmaster (£1), Glebe School, Greenock, per Robert Thexton, Esq., Headmaster (£1), Finnart School, per W. B. Ingram, Esq., Headmaster (£2 3s. 6d.); Upkeep of "Greenock School for the Deaf" bed, per Miss L. Whyte: Miss J. Stevenson (6s.), Mrs. D. Syme (12s.), Miss J. Whyte (5s.), Miss N. McClumpha (6s.), Children in School (3s. 6d.)	12	0	0
*Per Miss Etta Shankland: Firm and Workmen, Messrs. Wm. Hamilton & Co., Ltd., per D. L. Laurie, Esq., Sec., for "Glen Shipbuilding Yard" bed (New Unit) (6th instal.)	2	10	9
*Miss Helena M. Yates (half-yearly contribution)		6	0
Miss A. F. Patton	7	0	0
*Miss Constance B. Thresher (3rd quarterly don. for 1917)	2	10	0
*Peebles W.S.S., per Mrs. W. E. Thorburn, Hon. Sec.: Collected on Flag Day (£23 10s.), Private donations on same day (£10) (£25 for "Peebles" bed, Corsica; £8 10s. for "Tweedale" bed, Royaumont)...	33	10	0
Miss Brenda Traill	1	0	0
*Baberton Golf Club, per Martin McCall, Esq., Hon. Sec., for "Baberton" bed, Corsica (4th six months)...	26	0	0
Anonymous		1	0
Miss Betty Murray, to name a "Betty" bed, Royaumont (1st six months)	16	6	0
*Sunderland W.S.S., per Mrs. Mundella, Hon. Treas. (June collection): Workmen, Messrs. Short Bros., Ltd. (£18 19s.), Workmen, Messrs. R. A. Bartram & Sons, Ltd. (£4 15s. 10d.); Collected at 4, Belford Road: Mrs. Common (10s.), Miss J. Common (10s.), Mrs. Eliot Common (10s.), Mrs. Walford Common (5s.), Mrs. Garcia (2s. 6d.), A Friend (1s.), Household Economies at 4, Belford Road (6s.); Mrs. Dalrymple Smith (6s. 8d.), S. G. (4s.); Collected by Mrs. Mundella: Mrs. Johnson (10s.), Mrs. Eyres (5s.), Miss Panton (2s. 6d.), Miss A. Hedley (2s. 6d.), S. H. C. (2s. 6d.), Mrs. A. Ritson (2s.), Mrs. Mundella (2s.), Nurse Hinch (1s.), Mrs. Oliver (1s.), Form IV., Bede Collegiate Girls' School (4s. 10d.)	28	3	4
*Domestic Staff, St. Mary's School, Melrose		10	0
Per Miss Maud Leonard: Mr. and Mrs. Edward Leonard (£1), Miss Kathleen Mendham (2s. 6d.), Miss Jane Vicker (6d.)	1	3	0
*Per Miss Robertson, for "Innerleithen and Walkerburn" beds, Salonica: Mr. and Mrs. W. W. Thomson (£1), Miss Scott, Mass. (8s.), Mrs. Fairfax (5s.), Australian Soldiers serving in France (10s.) ...	2	3	0
*Miss Hill	5	0	0
*Falkirk W.S.S., per Miss Belle Moir, Hon. Treas.: Falkirk Iron Co. (Serbia)...	10	0	0
*Miss M. Brady, per Mrs. Patterson, Hon. Treas. Farnham and District W.S.S. (2 quarters subscriptions) (Serbia)...		13	0
I. Fyrish	1	1	0
*Holt W.S.S., per Miss F. M. Verrall, Hon. Sec., for "Holt III." bed: Result of Sale of Waste Paper	11	0	0
*Staff Kinnoull School, per Miss E. W. R. Alison, Hon. Treas. W.S.S. (18th monthly donation)		13	10
James Cruikshanks, Esq. ...		10	0
The Misses Millan...	1	10	0
*Per Mrs. Robertson: Employees Messrs. Boyd & Forrest (68th con.) (£2 7s. 11d.), Employees M. Muir & Co. (£1 5s. 6d.)...	3	13	5
*Staff and Pupils Bo'ness Academy, per Miss Renton: Repayment of Entertainment Tax (£5 12s. 10d.), for "Bo'ness Academy" bed, Royaumont (£2 11s. 2d.)	8	4	0
*Collected in Linlithgow Academy, per James Beveridge, Esq., Headmaster, to endow "Linlithgow Academy" bed No. 2 (Royaumont, one year)	50	0	0
"G. R. W. L.," per Bank of Madras, India	3	3	0
Miss Ruth Betham, Ranfurly Club, Masterton, New Zealand, per Bank of New Zealand, London (Dr. Agnes Bennett's Unit, Macedonia)...	55	0	0
*Per Miss Lucy Soutar: Proceeds of Concert by the Children of Greenbank Farm (2nd donation, for British Tommies in Home Unit		10	0
*Teachers and Staff Werneth Council School, Oldham, for upkeep of "Werneth Council School" bed, Royaumont, per Miss Frances Fox	50	0	0
*Per Mrs. Hicks, B.A., Hon. Treas. Bristol W.S.S. (May and June donations): Mrs. Bullen (£5), Miss Leonard (3s.), Mrs. H. Hicks (2s.), G. Bryan, Esq. (2s.), Mrs. Taylor (2s.), Mrs. Talbot (2s.), Mrs. Cross (2s.), St. Paul's Branch, per Mrs. Rashleigh (10s.), Totterdown Branch, per Mrs. Martin (4s.)	6	7	0
*Peebles W.S.S., per Mrs. W. E. Thorburn, Hon. Sec.: Collected by Mrs. Murray, Hon. Treas. (15s.), Mrs. Wilson (for "Tweedale" bed, Royaumont) (10s.)	1	5	0
*Per Miss Kathleen Burke, per the Manager, Canadian Bank of Commerce, London: £800 for continued maintenance for one year "Hamilton, Ont., Ward" at Ajaccio, Corsica, remainder for General Funds	1,800	0	0
	£226,380	0	6

NOTE.—During the past week an interesting donation of £1,800 has come in as a further result of Miss Kathleen Burke's efforts in Toronto, Canada. £800 of this goes towards the continued upkeep of the "Madge Neill Fraser" Hamilton Ontario Memorial Ward, at Ajaccio, Corsica, in Scottish Women's Hospital Unit, for one year. We have also received word from the Manager of the First National Bank of Chicago, that the sum of $250.00 is to be earmarked for a bed in Royaumont, to be known as the "La Grange" bed, subscribed by Men's Club of Emanuel Church, La Grange, Illinois, $240.00, and Mrs. Lowell C. Bassford, of La Grange, $10.00—$250.00.

FURTHER LIST OF BEDS NAMED.

Name of Bed.	*Donor.*
"Peebles" (Corsica) (further six months)	Peebles W.S.S., per Mrs. Thorburn, Hon. Sec.
"Baberton" (Corsica) (4th 6 months)	Baberton Golf Club, per Martin McCall, Esq., Hon. Sec.
"Linlithgow Academy II." (Royaumont) (1st year)	Per James Beveridge, Esq., Headmaster.
"Werneth Council School" (Royaumont) (2nd year)	Teachers and Staff, per Miss Frances Fox.
"Madge Neill Fraser," Hamilton, Ont., Ward, in Corsica Hospital (£800 for further upkeep for one year)	Per Miss Kathleen Burke, per the Manager, Canadian Bank of Commerce, London.

NOTE.—"Mid and Upper Cowal" bed, per Glasgow Joint Committee, in last week's list of COMMON CAUSE, should read, 1 bed for 1 year, £50, remainder for general funds.

"Ilkley and Ben Rhydding" beds should read, Girton and Newnham Unit, instead of Home Unit, as given in last week's list.

SUPPLEMENTARY LIST.

Donations received from Liverpool W.S.S. for upkeep of the "Liverpool" Bed, Royaumont, 1916-17 :—

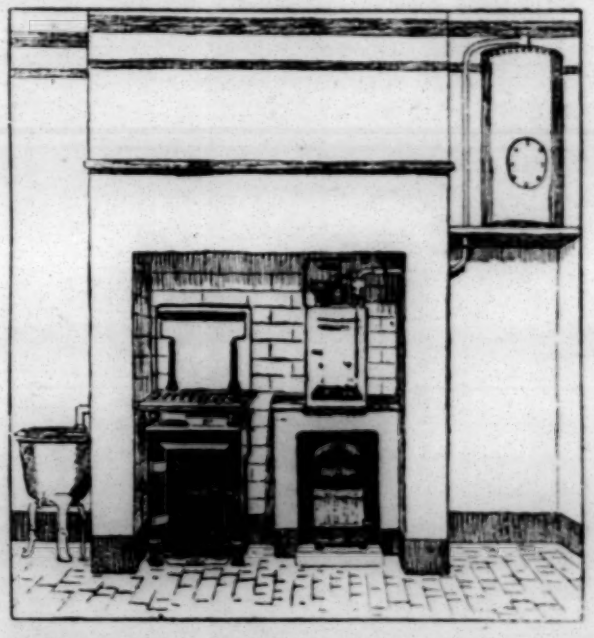
	£	s.	d.
Mrs. J. P. Brunner...	20	0	0
Miss C. Brunner	10	0	0
G. Oliver Jones, Esq.	5	5	0
Miss Rathbone	5	5	0
Mrs. Bright (Rochdale)... ...	5	0	0
Mrs Houston	5	0	0
Mrs. Isaacson	5	0	0
Miss S. Emily Jones	5	0	0
Mrs. Atkinson	3	0	0

Why Keep the Kitchen Range?

The kitchen range will soon be as extinct as the Dodo. In nine houses out of ten it is no longer used to prepare the family meals, but has been routed by the triumphal advent of the Gas Cooker, which is now found in kitchens of every grade and does yeoman service in one and all.

Similarly the coal range is falling into disrepute as a water-heater. Generations have suffered under its vagaries, and householders in the past resigned themselves—meekly or otherwise—to the manifold inconveniences of tepid water, because they and their advisers knew of no remedy.

When the modern Gas Water-heater was put upon the market, however, all was changed—to-day the tyranny of the coal range is tottering and only needs a decisive blow to end it for ever. Why should it not receive that blow? On the score alike of comfort, convenience, cost, and efficiency, gas apparatus for cooking and heating has everything to recommend it in the homes of rich and poor alike, more especially as at this time the residuals of gas-making are so urgently needed for the production of high explosives.



What more cleanly and hygienic arrangement could be desired than that of the "all-gas kitchen" here shown. Note the small space occupied by this collection of the most necessary kitchen appliances, and the ample flue provision—a very important point; note, too, the gas-heated washing copper which bids fair to revolutionise washing day in working and middle class families, and is one of the recent inventions which do most to promote sanitary conditions in the home.

For fuller information apply to the British Commercial Gas Association—a co-operative advisory body representing the chief gas undertakings of the kingdom. Address the Secretary, 47, Victoria Street, Westminster, S.W. 1

T. 375

	£	s.	d.
Miss E. B. Gordon...	3	0	0
Mrs. Hugh Rathbone	3	0	0
Mrs. E. Stewart Brown... ...	2	0	0
Miss Meade King	2	0	0
R. R. Meade King, Esq.... ...	2	0	0
Mrs. P. de G. Coghill	1	1	0
Miss Paton	1	1	0
Miss Bartlett...	1	0	0
Mrs. Allan H. Bright	1	0	0
Miss L. Brown	1	0	0
Mrs. H. D. Darbishire	1	0	0
Alex. Gutherie, Esq	1	0	0
Miss K. Horsfall	1	0	0
Miss A. Bishop		10	0
Miss A. Booth		10	0
Mrs. C. H. Brunner		10	0
Mrs. L. Hall...		10	0
Miss C. Leadly Brown		10	0
Miss G. K. McConnell		10	0
Mrs. George Rathbone		10	0
Miss Withes		6	0
Mrs. Ball		5	0
Mrs. Crooke		5	0
Mrs. Grimes		5	0
The Misses Chubb...		5	0
Miss Elizabeth Thomson ...		2	6
Miss H. C. Davis		2	0
Mrs. de Caluivé		1	0
Miss Coates		1	0
Miss Conway...		1	0
Mrs. Hawkes...			6
	£88	16	0

NOTE.—Of this total, £25 was received by the Hon. Treasurer, Headquarters, S.W.H., before the Liverpool Committee was formed. Balance of £63 16s. was included in the sum of £4,000 remitted to Headquarters, S.W.H., by Sir James Hope Simpson, Hon. Treasurer, Local Committee, S.W.H., as published in THE COMMON CAUSE list of week ending June 29th, 1917.

Details of Miss Kathleen Burke's Donations of £528 7s. 2d. Further meetings held in Chicago. Sent per John C. Korbie, Esq., May 29th, 1917 :—

	Dollars.
Kathleene Simmons	4.00
Ernest Brokett	1.00
G. A. Sooter	250.00
Western Sporting Goods	5.00
F. E. Bryant	25.00
Mrs. Jos. E. McBotham	25.00
H. J. Bryant	5.00
J. T. Caldwell...	5.00

	Dollars.
Chas. D. Gano...	10.00
L. A. Garton	25.00
C. W. Judd	5.00
Currency	86.00
Albert H. Wolf	20.00
Mrs. John Borden	50.00
Silas H. Strenor	15.00
A. E. Hayes Sadler	5.00
W. Earl Hoore...	25.00
Jas. P. Soper	125.00
Mrs. C. D. Tripp	10.00
May L. Ross	10.00
Geo. A. Tripp	25.00
Angela C. Gommerly	50.00
Mrs. W. P. Wibilcorn	5.00
Gordon Strong...	50.00
Lowell C. Bassford	10.00
Emily B. Smith	25.00
Harold C. Smith	25.00
H. M. Thompson	125.00
Robert McDougall	25.00
I. J. Lyons	1.00
Mrs. J. E. Boynton	25.00
J. J. Dan	125.00
David B. Jones	1,000.00
Mrs. Clement C. Smith-Mews ...	50.00
Mrs W. Colman	50.00
Mr. and Mrs. C. J. Hamilton ...	15.00
Mrs. C. A. Reed	25.00
J. B. Lord	100.00
Mr. and Mrs. E. G. Shaunesay...	50.00
Jas. H. Douglas	25.00

$2,521.00 = £528 7s. 2d.

Details of Miss Kathleen Burke's Donations of £153 15s. 5d. Further meetings held in Chicago, per John C. Korbie, Esq., May 29th, 1917 :—

	Dollars.
E. J. Rogerson Stores	240.00
Normal Park Presby. Church ...	182.10
Robert Stuart	100.00
I. R. Wilson	75.00
R. Douglas	30.00
J. R. Wilson	25.00
Mrs. Robert McDougall	25.00
E. Endaky	25.00
Dorothy H. Hoorer	10.00
Miss Chat. Enamel	—
Mary Reed	10.00
Charles La Grangzby	—
Elizabeth Faulkener	5.00
Mrs. Earl P. Hambleton	5.00
Rosalie Winkler, Mieus	4.00

$736.10 = £153 15s. 5d.

On June 27th, at the Norland Place School, Miss Cicely Hamilton spoke to a large gathering of the Old Girls' Association and of the present school about the work of the Scottish Women's Hospital at Royaumont. She has been administrator since the Hospital was established in 1914, and gave a most interesting account not only of the work done, but of the relations between the neighbouring French and the Hosptal. The audience were deeply appreciative, and hope to show their interest by continuing to subscribe to a bed which they have supported since March.

London Units of the Scottish Women's Hospitals.

DONATIONS AND COLLECTIONS.

	£	s.	d.
Already acknowledged ... JUNE, 1917.	34,845	8	7
American Collections, per Miss Burke	491	1	3
Anonymous	2	6	
Anon., per Miss Curwen ...	3	10	10
Anon., per Mrs. Flinders Petrie	77	4	6
A slight recognition of interest shown and time given by the Canadian Boys of the Bramshot Camp Concert Party"	20	0	0
Baker, Miss E., and Friends ...	5	0	
Baker, Mrs. Stanley	3	0	0
Binfield, Miss	10	0	
"Boys of Oakfield," per Mrs. Park	12	0	
British Women's Hospitals Committee, on account	10,000	0	0
British School of Archæology in Egypt, per Mrs. Flinders Petrie	13	4	3
Collecting Card No. 32, per Miss A. Martin	5	0	
Crawford, Mrs.	1	1	0
Finch, Mrs.	1	6	
Fraser, Per Miss M. M. ...	8	0	
"Harrogate College" bed, per Miss M. E. Jones	25	0	0
Heath, Per Miss :—			
Ashley, Miss Ethel ...	1	0	
Christy, Miss Eva ...	1	0	
Heath, Miss F.	5	0	
Hibbert, Miss Ellen ...	6		
Jenkins, Mrs. H. ...	2	0	
Littleboy, Mr. A. ...	1	0	
Miall, Mrs. R.	5	0	
Michael, Miss	2	0	
Patch, Dr. Winifred ...	1	0	
Powell, Miss C.	1	0	
Thomas, Miss	1	2	
	1	0	8
Hinde, Mrs. (monthly don.) ...	5	0	
King's College Collection, per Miss Curwen	7	18	7
McCroben, Miss C.	5	0	
Mackay, Mrs.	10	0	
Muir-Mackenzie's, Lady, Meeting :—			
Collection 16	1	3	
Gilstrap, Miss 5	0	0	
Goodwin, George, Esq. 10	6		
McNeil, R., Esq. ... 1	0	0	
	22	11	9
New Constitutional Society for W.S. : Collection at Meeting	2	11	6
Orme Girls' School, per Miss Curwen	4	0	3
Pupils and Staff of Aske's Hatcham School for Girls (Bed I.)	25	0	0
Pupils and Staff of Leytonstone County High School for Girls	5	4	6
Robinson, Miss Lucy	1	1	0
Rowe, Miss		3	6
St. Mark's Church, Hornsey, Collection	2	10	5
Stoney, Miss	1	0	0
Streatham Meeting, Half Collection		12	1
The Ocean Staff	2	9	0
V.A.D., 244 London, per Miss McGregor, Commandant ...	20	0	0
Walker, Miss A. P.		9	0
Wickenden, Harold, Esq. ...	2	0	0
"Wycombe Abbey School" bed, per Miss Whitelaw ...	25	0	0
	£45,606	6	8

On Wednesday, July 11th, Miss Curwen lectured at the Aske's Hatcham Girls' School, New Cross, on the recent work of the Scottish Women's Hospitals. The staff and girls listened with interest to the experiences of the Scottish nurses, whom they have supported so generously for over two years. For them the main interest centred in Royaumont, and the London Units, where are the two beds for which they send their contributions so regularly. At the close of the meeting, Miss Young (Head Mistress) promised, on behalf of the school, that the next six months' contribution for the Aske's Hatcham Bed II., at Royaumont, should be sent in on, or before, Monday July 23rd. The half-yearly subscription for the Aske's Hatcham Bed I., in Dr. Inglis' Hospital at Reni was received in May of this year. This success should be an encouragement to other girls' schools to undertake similar work.

MEETINGS.

THURSDAY, JULY 26th, at 12 noon.—Notting Hill High School—Speaker: Miss May Curwen.

SATURDAY, JULY 28th (time not yet fixed).—Given-Wilson Institute, Plaistow War Exhibition—Speaker: Miss May Curwen.

SUFFRAGE ORGANISER AS AREA CONTROLLER IN FRANCE.

We note with interest that Miss Alice Low, of Edinburgh, a daughter of the late Lord Low, has been appointed by the Women's Auxiliary Army Corps as Area Controller in France. Miss Low has for some years been Organising Secretary of the Edinburgh District of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies, and since the war she has been working for the Scottish Women's Hospitals.

We have always felt that suffrage work was an excellent training school, and, no doubt, her past experience will be invaluable in France. She is one of the many who disprove by their personality the rapidily dying theory that women who engage in public political work must become hard or coarse. Miss Low combines charm and gentleness with courage and determination. We confidently wish her success in her new work.

What Some of our Societies are Doing.

CENTRAL COUNTIES FEDERATION.

On Thursday, July 12th, was held in THE COMMON CAUSE Hut, kindly lent by Miss Acland Hood, the annual meeting of the Central Counties Federation.

This Federation, only just newly formed at the beginning of the war, has been severely handicapped. The first three organisers we had sent us from Headquarters were withdrawn before they had been able to do any work, one from pressure of other work, one from illness, and the last because she was on the reserve staff of an important nursing association, and was suddenly ordered to proceed to Belgium. Many of the Societies in the Federation were in their infancy, and although the Federation had the services of Mrs. Ring as part-time Secretary, that, of course, could not be equivalent to the work of a full-time organiser, especially in face of all the difficulties presented by war conditions.

However, of the eighteen Societies, nine were able to present a report of work done, and, in the case of three others, all the members are busily engaged in war work, though not as organised by their Suffrage Societies. Still, they have kept together, and attended Committees, and are fully intending renewed activity under the auspices of the N.U after the war. The remaining six had paid their affiliation fees, but held no meetings.

There was a good representation at the meeting at Coventry. During the past year nearly £200 had been collected in the Federation for the Scottish Women's Hospitals, besides a sum sent for the Millicent Fawcett Unit. Two Societies had been prime movers in their city on the subject of the Combating of Venereal Diseases, which had led to the authorities taking the matter up, and five were actively engaged in Infant Welfare, three having organised an Infant Welfare Centre or a crèche in their own town.

A good deal of quiet political work had been done, and at least three M.P.s persuaded to support the Bill, as a result, while useful meetings had been held in different places among munition workers, trade unions, and other bodies.

It seemed very appropriate that the annual meeting should be held in THE COMMON CAUSE Hut, which was greatly admired by the delegates from other Societies in the Federation; a thousand munition workers already belong to the Club organised there.

Mrs. Kempthorne, who has fortunately recovered from her long illness, presided, and urged us to hold together and learn through our organisation, and in every other way we possibly could, to use the vote that will have been so toilfully won for us, and by us, in the interests of justice and righteousness, and for the good of others. Miss I. O. Ford also gave a most inspiring address, reminding us how much all women owed to the N.U., and especially to Mrs. Fawcett, and how the problems ahead for the country called for our most earnest consideration and effort. Only women and men together, using their utmost wisdom and complete disinterestedness could solve those problems in the best way for the England of the future.

Coventry had prepared a most astonishingly good tea for sixpence ahead, with the help of Miss Histon, to whom much of the success of the meeting was due, and in the evening Miss Ford spoke to a larger gathering in St. Mary's Hall, on "Coventry's Need for Women Councillors."

HERNE BAY W.S.S.

HERNE BAY.—Among the most active of Women's Suffrage Societies is the Herne Bay Branch of the N.U.W.S.S. The indefatigable energy has brought it into great prominence, and, in particular, its recent history is most interesting. In working for the Women's Suffrage Clause of the Reform Bill, the Society sent a deputation to Mr. Ronald McNeil, the local M.P., for the purpose of presenting him with a memorial in favour of suffrage, signed by many of his best known constituents. The deputation was rendered unique by being joined, at her own request, by Mrs. McNeil, wife of its recipient. It was received by Mr. McNeil in the most friendly manner possible. Mrs. McNeil has since accepted the office of President of the Society, the last President having been obliged to resign as she was leaving the locality.

The Herne Bay Society is fortunate in having as its Chairman and Hon. Sec. Mr. and Mrs. Cowper Field, two most energetic suffragists. Mr. Cowper Field has focussed in the Society's office nearly all the local war activities, with the result that it is known as Mr. Field's "War Office."

In the absence of Mrs. McNeil, Mrs. Cowper Field, as Vice-President and Hon. Secretary, presided this month at a large meeting held in Herne Bay to consider the present political situation. The principal speaker was Miss Mercer, of the N.U.W.S.S. The essence of her address was that Parliamentary enfranchisement is the beginning, not the end of woman's enterprise. It is important only as making possible all those activities from which women have hitherto been debarred.

On the passage of Clause 4 of the Representation of the People Bill, Mr. Field, in the name of the Society, took the original step of sending a telegram of congratulation to Queen Mary, as the representative of the country's womanhood. As President of the Herne Bay Division of the S. and S. F. A., he sent a similar telegram to Queen Alexandra in her capacity as President of the Association. Both telegrams received a gracious acknowledgment. Mr. Field's message to the Queen was as follows:—"Herne Bay Society for Women's Suffrage congratulates your Majesty, as representing the womanhood of our race, on this act of justice vindicated; and assures you of an unfailing loyalty and devotion to your House, and to the great principles of right which you unfalteringly champion."

The following reply was received:—"I am commanded by the Queen to convey to you and the Herne Bay Society, Women's Suffrage, an expression of Her Majesty's sincere thanks for your congratulations and assurance of your loyalty and devotion."—EDWARD WALLINGTON.

BOLTON SOCIETY.—At the initiative of the Bolton Women's Suffrage Society, with fourteen other women's organisations co-operating, a most successful conference, under the Presidency of Mrs. Haslam, was held at the large Spinners' Hall, Bolton, on June 9th, to consider some pressing social and educational problems. There was a very large attendance at both afternoon and evening sessions, no fewer than 42 organisations being represented by two to six delegates each, including the Bolton Trades and Labour Council and many large trades unions. There was also a large number of visitors present.

The afternoon session (for women only), under the able chairmanship of Mrs. C. V. Thompson (Chairman of the B.W.S.S.), dealt with "Day Nurseries for Children under School Age" and "Responsibilities and Opportunities of Women." Speakers: Miss Zanetti, Mrs. A. Robinson, Miss Baurtulen, and others. A Prohibition resolution was also brought forward, and carried unanimously without discussion. Two working mothers supported the resolution on Day Nurseries, and made a deep impression by their simple statement of the difficulties surrounding the average working women's lives. An addendum moved by a girl weaver to the second resolution, urging women to make a close study of and take an active interest in the trade-union movement, as a means of equipping themselves for the larger responsibilities that had been laid upon them, was so well done as to be quite one of the events of the conference. A good discussion followed, and the resolutions were carried unanimously. Miss Reddish presided at the evening session. The first resolution dealt with Women in Industry: "That this Conference is of opinion that no settlement of After-War Industrial Problems can be satisfactory in which women's interests are not safeguarded by (1) 'Equal Pay for Equal Work'; (2) Compensation for Displacement at Demobilisation; (3) Representation on Demobilisation Committees." Mr. Hallsworth, in an excellent speech, showed that he was perfectly master of the problem, as also did Miss E. Wilkinson in seconding the resolution. Mr. R. Tootill, M.P., who was present as a visitor, strongly supported the resolution, and was of opinion that women were in industry to stay. If women were indifferent to matters affecting their industrial outlook and remained unorganised, they would be a menace. If that conference could exercise an influence in the direction of showing women that organisation was the best safeguard they could possibly have, it would have done real good, and he was of opinion that before long women would have a very real voice in the body politic. A long discussion followed, and the question of Women in Industry would have been sufficiently absorbing for the whole evening. However, in fairness to the other speakers, Miss Reddish brought it to a close by putting the resolution to the meeting, when it was carried unanimously. Mr. J. Edwards then proposed: "That the present demand for labour upon the ordinary boy and girl has accentuated the necessity for some guidance in and provision for healthy recreation, to widen the vision and awaken an interest in the higher things of life. Miss Zanetti seconded the resolution, and spoke of the great need for something more to be done for the young people. She did not advocate mixed clubs, though she favoured arrangements for the two clubs to entertain each other in turn. Mrs. Agnew, in supporting, was of opinion that Bolton did need some institute devoted especially to the needs of youth. Mr. J. Darbyshire, on behalf of the W. E. A., moved an addition to the resolution, pointing out the need for classes in attractive subjects for adolescent education. There was very little time for discussion, and the resolution and addendum were carried unanimously.

A few days after the conference a letter was received from an official of the Trades and Labour Council urging upon the conveners of the conference the desirability of holding another conference, entirely on "Women in Industry," and at a joint committee held a few days later it was decided unanimously to hold one at the end of September or beginning of October. It is hoped that as a result of the conference some women will be invited to serve on the Demobilisation Committee now being formed in Bolton by the Mayor, to whom a copy of the resolutions has been sent, with full details of the conference. It is also hoped that something may arise out of the Day Nurseries resolution.

Both papers gave full accounts in their evening and weekly editions, and one paper devoted the whole of its leading article on the following day to the significance of the conference.

ST. ALBANS W.S.S.—A drawing-room meeting was held at "The Gables," Avenue Road, St. Albans, under the auspices of the N.U.W.S.S., on Friday, June 13th. Mr. T. Askwith was in the chair, and Miss Stuart, Secretary of the St. Albans W.S.S., who has undertaken Government work on the Soldiers' Pension Fund, was fortunately able to be present. Miss Moberly gave an address, in the course of which she reviewed the present political situation in Russia, and gave a vivid description of the working of the British Women's Hospital Units, which would form a useful link, and a practical token of Britain's sympathy and desire to help their Russian and Polish Allies. In proposing a vote of thanks to Miss Moberly, Alderman A. Faulkner said that the women of Great Britain were to be congratulated upon the magnificent vote obtained in the House of Commons a few weeks ago.

Forthcoming Meetings.

JULY 21.

Manchester Federation—Conference on Future Work—Milton Hall, Deansgate, Manchester. 2.30—7.30 p.m.

JULY 25.

Bristol—Meeting of Women's Service League, Dean Lane, Bedminster—Speaker: Mrs. W. C. H. Cross, on Infant Welfare. 3.30 p.m.

Bristol—Working Party at 40, Park Street. 3—5 p.m.

Birmingham—Greet Infant Welfare Centre—Speaker: Mrs. Attlee. 4.0 p.m

London Society—Concert Hall, King's Arms, Hanwell Broadway—Hanwell Branch of the London and Provincial Union of Licensed Vehicle Workers—Speaker: Miss Annie H. Tynan, on Votes and Industrial Reconstruction After the War. 8.30 p.m

JULY 26.

Walthamstow Branch L.S.W.S.—Annual Meeting, Forest Lodge, Walthamstow—Speaker: Miss Ruth Young—Subject: "Future Outlook of the Society." 7.0 p.m

JULY 27.

Cambridge—Meeting of Cambridge W.S.A., at Newnham College (by kind permission of the Principal)—Speaker: Mrs. Stocks—Subject: "The Coming of Women's Suffrage"—Chairman: Mrs. Heitland. 5.0 p.m.

Coming Events.

A "LAVENDER AND TOKEN DAY" has been organised by the Ascot N.U.W.S.S. for July 28th, when there will be a house-to-house sale by members and friends in Ascot and the district. A shop will be opened for the day in the High Street, where goods of every description—but of mauve colours only—will be sold. Miss Violet Hanbury, Holmwood Lodge, Ascot, would gladly accept gifts in money or kind, especially fresh lavender, by July 26th. Proceeds will be distributed between the Scottish Women's Hospitals and the Berkshire County Collection for W.M.C.A. Huts.

RIVER HOLIDAY FOR WOMEN WAR WORKERS.—From August 18th to 25th. Terms £1 1s. inclusive. Large grounds, tennis, swimming-bath. Return fare from Paddington, 9s. Apply immediately to Miss Arnison, Patrol Club Organiser, 11, St. Matthew Street, Westminster, S.W. 1.

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Continued from page 195

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